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2099
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SPIDER-MAN
2099 SPECIAL

GREG & TIM HILDEBRANDT

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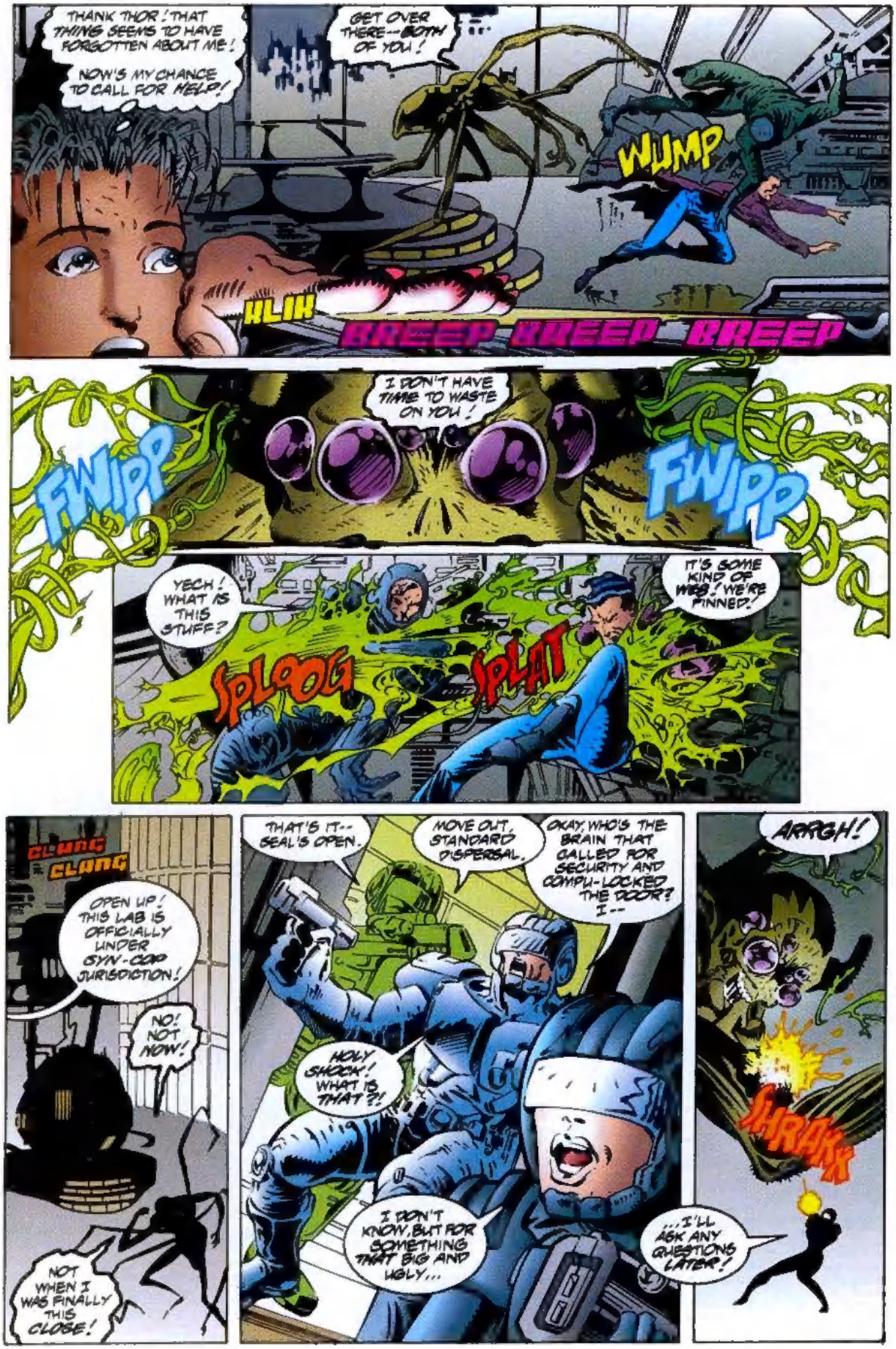
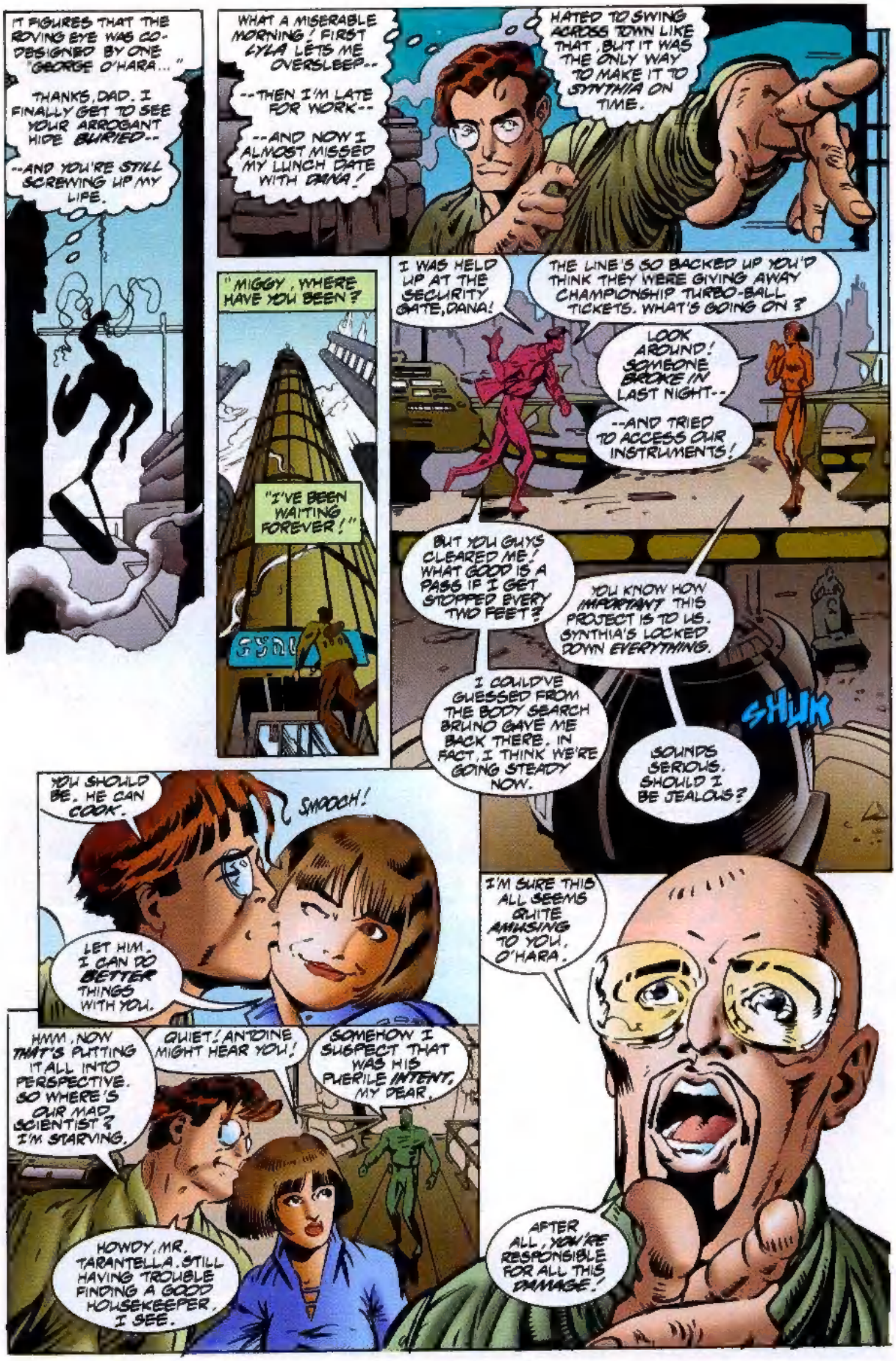

THANK THOR! THAT THING SEEMS TO HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME!
NOW'S MY CHANCE TO CALL FOR HELP!
GET OVER THERE--BOTH OF YOU!
WUMP
KLIK
BREEP BREEP BREEP
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE ON YOU!
FWIPP
FWIPP
YECH! WHAT IS THIS STUFF?
IT'S SOME KIND OF WEB! WE'RE PINNED!
SPLOOG
SPLAT
CLUNG CLUNG
OPEN UP! THIS LAB IS OFFICIALLY UNDER GYN-COID JURISDICTION!
NO! NOT NOW!
NOT WHEN I WAS FINALLY THIS CLOSE!
THAT'S IT--SEAL'S OPEN.
MOVE OUT, STANDARD DISPERSAL.
OKAY, WHO'S THE BRAIN THAT CALLED FOR SECURITY AND COMPU-LOCKED THE DOOR? I--
HOLY SHOCK! WHAT IS THAT?!
I DON'T KNOW, BUT FOR SOMETHING THAT BIG AND UGLY...
ARRGH!
KRAKK
...I'LL ASK ANY QUESTIONS LATER!

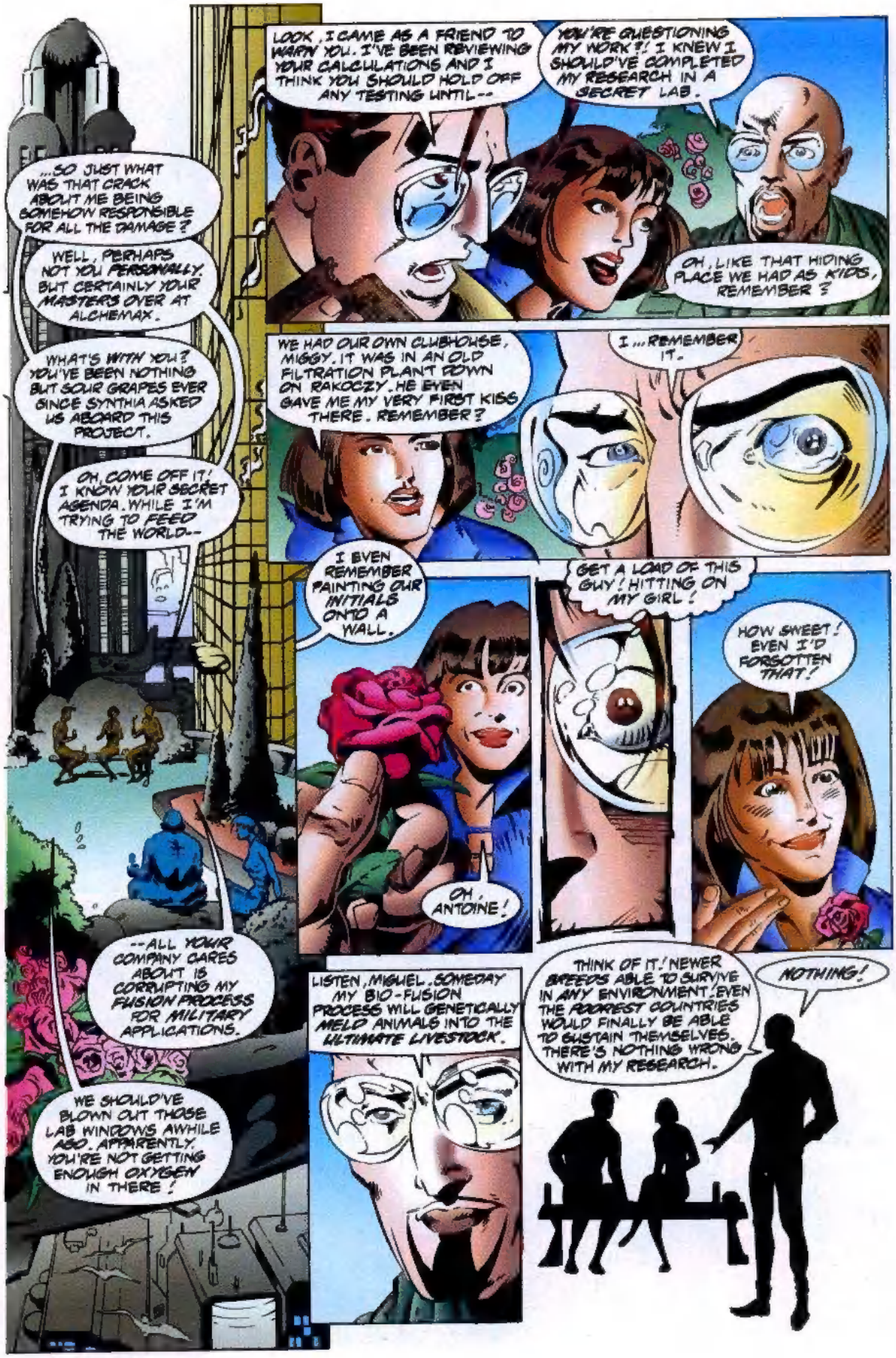
CRASH!
CAN'T STAY AND FIGHT... NOT WITH THIS ARM. I'M BLEEDING TOO BADLY. MUST GET AWAY WHILE I STILL CAN!
NO MATTER WHAT, THEY MUSTN'T DISCOVER MY SECRET!
DID YOU SEE THAT LEAP? HE MUST'VE CLEARED FIFTY FEET IN ONE STRIDE!
DORSEY! PUT YOUR EYES BACK IN YOUR HEAD AND CHECK OUT THAT WINDOW. WHERE'D IT GO?
CAPTAIN! IT--IT'S GONE!
JUST GREAT! LET'S SEE WHAT THESE GUYS KNOW! YUCK! WHAT IS THIS STUFF? IT'S AS TOUGH AS SYN-FIBER!
OKAY, EGGHEAD-- TALK OR I'LL LEAVE YOU PINNED FOR THE CLEAN-UP CREW!
WE WORK HERE! WE GOT BACK FROM A LATE DINNER WHEN WE CAUGHT THAT MONSTROSITY IN OUR LAB! IT WAS ALMOST LIKE...
...LIKE IT KNEW WHAT IT WANTED.
WELL, WHATEVER THAT THING WAS, IT'S STILL OUT THERE.
"HIDING IN THE SHADOWS...
"...PROBABLY TRYING TO GET BACK TO WHATEVER HELL IT CRAWLED UP FROM.
"ONLY NOW IT'S HURT.
"SO IF WE'RE LUCKY... REALLY, REALLY LUCKY
"...MAYBE IT'LL DIE THERE AS WELL."

ONCE AGAIN, HE FEELS THE CHANGE COMING.
EVERY FIBER OF HIS BODY, EVERY MUSCLE HE COMMANDS TINGLES WITH ANTICIPATION.
A SENSATION THAT QUICKLY GIVES WAY TO AGONIZING PAIN!
HE WANTS MORE TIME. HE NEEDS MORE TIME.
YET HE KNOWS THERE IS NOTHING HE CAN DO TO STAVE OFF THE INFERNO RAGING IN HIS BLOOD.
ALL HE CAN DO IS SUFFER...
...AS EVERY CELL WITHIN HIS BODY...
...IS REARRANGED ON A GENETIC LEVEL--
--TO RETURN THIS BEAST TO THE FORM OF MAN!
NO. NO! THE TRANSFORMATION CAME TOO SOON!
I NEEDED THE SPIDER POWERS TO ACCELERATE THE HEALING OF MY ARM.
FEEL SO WEAK. SO... DIZZY.
HIGH LOST FAR TOO MUCH BLOOD. NEED TO SLEEP.
SLEEP AND DREAM...
...OF A HAPPIER TIME...
AT DAZ

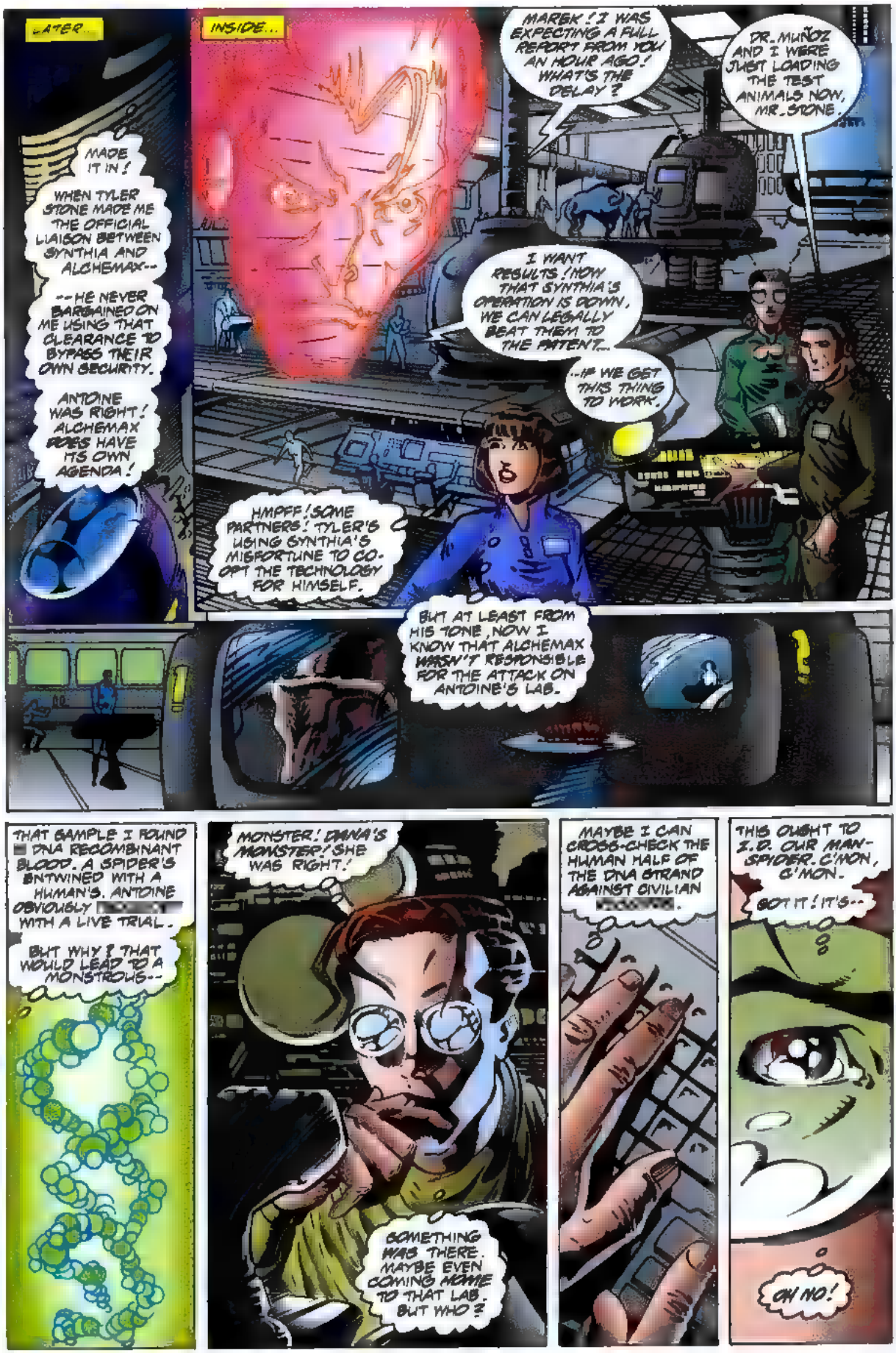
HALT! YOU ARE UNDER ARREST, SPIDER-MAN!
AS AN AUTHORIZED PATROL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PUBLIC EYE, I ORDER YOU TO STOP WHERE YOU ARE!*
RIGHT HERE? NO THANKS, PAL!
I HAD PLANS OTHER THAN FALLING TO THE GROUND AND MAKING LIKE A PANCAKE!
A ROVING* EYE? WHEN DID THEY PUT THESE SUCKERS ON-LINE?
*YOU GUESSED IT! THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BEFORE SPIDEY 2099 #34! --JOEY
"RECONNAISSANCE ORB FOR VISUAL INTELLIGENCE NETWORK GATHERING. WHEW! --ACRONYM JOEY
THERE IS NO POINT IN DELAYING YOUR CAPTURE. MY MICRO-PROCESSORS CAN PREDICT YOUR EVERY MOVE.
--"WOTTA MAROON!"
ERROR! REVERSE ANTI-GRAVS!
OH YEAH? WELL IN THE IMMORTAL WORDS OF ONE B. BUNNY--
OKAY, BLINKY-- TIME TO PUT AN END TO THIS.
WARNING! EVADE! EVADE!
YES! EIGHT BALL IN THE CORNER POCKET!
THIS UNIT MUST SURVIVE-- =SHRAKK=
SHOOM


IT FIGURES THAT THE ROVING EYE WAS CO-DESIGNED BY ONE "GEORGE O'HARA..."
THANKS, DAD. I FINALLY GET TO SEE YOUR ARROGANT HIDE BURIED--
--AND YOU'RE STILL SCREWING UP MY LIFE.
WHAT A MISERABLE MORNING! FIRST LYLA LETS ME OVERSLEEP--
--THEN I'M LATE FOR WORK--
--AND NOW I ALMOST MISSED MY LUNCH DATE WITH DANA!
HATED TO SWING ACROSS TOWN LIKE THAT, BUT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE IT TO SYNTHIA ON TIME.
"MIGGY, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
"I'VE BEEN WAITING FOREVER!"
I WAS HELD UP AT THE SECURITY GATE, DANA!
THE LINE'S SO BACKED UP YOU'D THINK THEY WERE GIVING AWAY CHAMPIONSHIP TURBO-BALL TICKETS. WHAT'S GOING ON?
LOOK AROUND! SOMEONE BROKE IN LAST NIGHT--
--AND TRIED TO ACCESS OUR INSTRUMENTS!
BUT YOU GUYS CLEARED ME! WHAT GOOD IS A PASS IF I GET STOPPED EVERY TWO FEET?
YOU KNOW HOW IMPORTANT THIS PROJECT IS TO US. SYNTHIA'S LOCKED DOWN EVERYTHING.
I COULD'VE GUESSED FROM THE BODY SEARCH BRUNO GAVE ME BACK THERE. IN FACT, I THINK WE'RE GOING STEADY NOW.
SHUK
SOUNDS SERIOUS. SHOULD I BE JEALOUS?
YOU SHOULD BE. HE CAN COOK.
SMOOCH!
LET HIM. I CAN DO BETTER THINGS WITH YOU.
I'M SURE THIS ALL SEEMS QUITE AMUSING TO YOU, O'HARA.
HMM. NOW THAT'S PUTTING IT ALL INTO PERSPECTIVE. SO WHERE'S OUR MAD SCIENTIST? I'M STARVING.
QUIET! ANTOINE MIGHT HEAR YOU!
SOMEHOW I SUSPECT THAT WAS HIS PUERILE INTENT, MY DEAR.
HOWDY, MR. TARANTELLA. STILL HAVING TROUBLE FINDING A GOOD HOUSEKEEPER, I SEE.
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THIS DAMAGE!

WHAT?!
ANTOINE! HOW CAN YOU TALK LIKE THAT?
IT'S EASY. YOU JUST FLAP YOUR LIPS WHILE DRAWING AIR ACROSS YOUR VOCAL CHORDS. IT'S THE LATEST CRAZE--EVERYONE'S DOING IT.
MIGGY! THIS IS NO TIME FOR JOKES! WE HAVE WITNESSES.
IT WAS A MONSTER!
A MONSTER?
HERE? IN MY LAB?
OH DEAR--I THINK I'M GOING TO FAINT...
GOOD! I HOPE YOU LAND ON THAT THICK HEAD OF YOURS! bleeehhh
AHH, SUCH A FACE. JUST HOW I IMAGINE IT EVERY NIGHT AS I LAY IN BED.
SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE.
FOR A GUY WHO'S USUALLY WOUND TIGHTER THAN AN ANTI-GRAV COIL, ANTOINE'S SURE TAKING THIS WELL.
THIS BIO PROJECT WAS HIS LIFE. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ANY "MONSTERS", BUT SOMETHING TRASHED THIS PLACE. I--
HEY, WHAT'S THAT LUMINESCENT GUNK?
NO ONE ELSE SEEMS TO HAVE NOTICED IT YET.
GUESS SOME DAYS IT PAYS TO HAVE ACCELERATED VISION.
ODD. NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT IN THE LAB BEFORE.
I'M SURE NO ONE WILL MIND IF I TAKE A SAMPLE...
LOSE SOMETHING, MIGUEL?
YEAH, ABOUT 2 POUNDS WAITING FOR YOU GUYS.
I'M WITH YOU, MIGGY. LET'S EAT.


LOOK, I CAME AS A FRIEND TO WARN YOU. I'VE BEEN REVIEWING YOUR CALCULATIONS AND I THINK YOU SHOULD HOLD OFF ANY TESTING UNTIL--
YOU'RE QUESTIONING MY WORK?! I KNEW I SHOULD'VE COMPLETED MY RESEARCH IN A SECRET LAB.
OH, LIKE THAT HIDING PLACE WE HAD AS KIDS, REMEMBER?
...SO JUST WHAT WAS THAT CRACK ABOUT ME BEING SOMEHOW RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE DAMAGE?
WELL, PERHAPS NOT YOU PERSONALLY. BUT CERTAINLY YOUR MASTERS OVER AT ALCHEMAX.
WHAT'S WITH YOU? YOU'VE BEEN NOTHING BUT SOUR GRAPES EVER SINCE SYNTHIA ASKED US ABOARD THIS PROJECT.
OH, COME OFF IT! I KNOW YOUR SECRET AGENDA. WHILE I'M TRYING TO FEED THE WORLD--
WE HAD OUR OWN CLUBHOUSE, MIGGY. IT WAS IN AN OLD FILTRATION PLANT DOWN ON RAKOCZY. HE EVEN GAVE ME MY VERY FIRST KISS THERE. REMEMBER?
I ...REMEMBER IT.
I EVEN REMEMBER PAINTING OUR INITIALS ONTO A WALL.
OH, ANTOINE!
GET A LOAD OF THIS GUY! HITTING ON MY GIRL!
HOW SWEET! EVEN I'D FORGOTTEN THAT!
--ALL YOUR COMPANY CARES ABOUT IS CORRUPTING MY FUSION PROCESS FOR MILITARY APPLICATIONS.
WE SHOULD'VE BLOWN OUT THOSE LAB WINDOWS AWHILE AGO. APPARENTLY, YOU'RE NOT GETTING ENOUGH OXYGEN IN THERE!
LISTEN, MIGUEL. SOMEDAY MY BIO-FUSION PROCESS WILL GENETICALLY MELD ANIMALS INTO THE ULTIMATE LIVESTOCK.
THINK OF IT! NEWER BREEDS ABLE TO SURVIVE IN ANY ENVIRONMENT. EVEN THE POOREST COUNTRIES WOULD FINALLY BE ABLE TO SUSTAIN THEMSELVES. THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH MY RESEARCH.
NOTHING!

ANTOINE, CALM DOWN! MIGGY DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING--
OWW! MY ARM!
DANA, I--
I HAVE TO GO!
NOW WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
HAD TO GET AWAY. SOMETHING'S... ...WRONG!
SOME NUT'S OUT ON THE MAG-LEV LEVEL!
HEY, LOOK AT THAT.
PAIN...COURSING THROUGH MY SYSTEM! SHOULDN'T HAVE LET O'HARA AGITATE ME LIKE THAT. I CAN FEEL... THE CHANGE COMING ON.
CAN'T... HOLD IT BACK...
BREEP BREEP BR
...ANYMORE!
YOU IDIOT! WHAT KINDA V-R. TRIP ARE YOU ON? GET OUTTA THE ROAD! I--
HUH?!
RRIIPP!
YOU SHOULD WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
PEDESTRIANS ALWAYS HAVE THE RIGHT OF WAY!
WHAT IS THAT?
AAGH! KEEP AWAY FROM ME!
SMASH


LATER...
MADE IT IN!
WHEN TYLER STONE MADE ME THE OFFICIAL LIAISON BETWEEN SYNTHIA AND ALCHEMAX--
--HE NEVER BARGAINED ON ME USING THAT CLEARANCE TO BYPASS THEIR OWN SECURITY.
ANTOINE WAS RIGHT! ALCHEMAX DOES HAVE ITS OWN AGENDA!
INSIDE...
MARSK! I WAS EXPECTING A FULL REPORT FROM YOU AN HOUR AGO! WHAT'S THE DELAY?
DR. MUÑOZ AND I WERE JUST LOADING THE TEST ANIMALS NOW, MR. STONE.
I WANT RESULTS! NOW THAT SYNTHIA'S OPERATION IS DOWN, WE CAN LEGALLY BEAT THEM TO THE PATENT...
...IF WE GET THIS THING TO WORK.
HMPFF! SOME PARTNERS! TYLER'S USING SYNTHIA'S MISFORTUNE TO CO-OPT THE TECHNOLOGY FOR HIMSELF.
BUT AT LEAST FROM HIS TONE, NOW I KNOW THAT ALCHEMAX WASN'T RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATTACK ON ANTOINE'S LAB.
THAT SAMPLE I FOUND [redacted] DNA RECOMBINANT BLOOD. A SPIDER'S ENTWINED WITH A HUMAN'S. ANTOINE OBVIOUSLY [redacted] WITH A LIVE TRIAL.
BUT WHY? THAT WOULD LEAD TO A MONSTROUS--
MONSTER! DANA'S MONSTER! SHE WAS RIGHT!
SOMETHING WAS THERE. MAYBE EVEN COMING HOME TO THAT LAB. BUT WHO?
MAYBE I CAN CROSS-CHECK THE HUMAN HALF OF THE DNA STRAND AGAINST CIVILIAN [redacted].
THIS OUGHT TO I.D. OUR MAN-SPYDER. C'MON, C'MON.
GOT IT! IT'S--
OH NO!

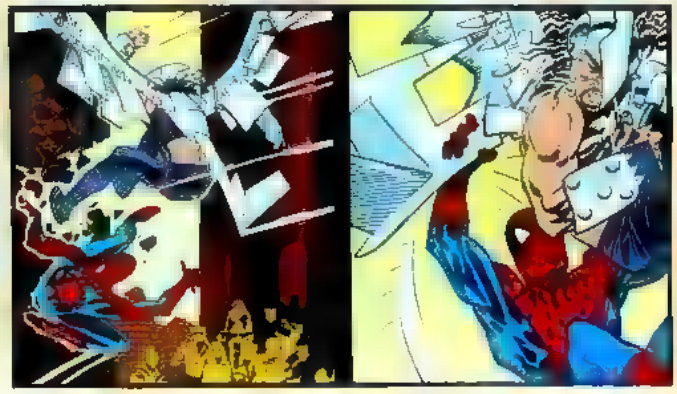
2099 BITMAPPED Reality Bytes

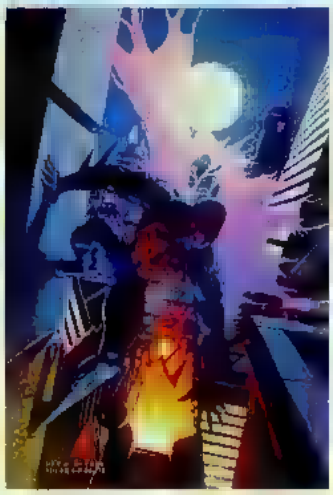
Hey Frantic Ones!

All right, it's not the most original opening for a Bullpen page. Except this month, "Frantic ones" refers to us!

Big Deal!

Well, it IS a big deal! Next month, the SPIDER-MAN MEETS SPIDER-MAN 2099 Bookshelf hits the racks! Peter, Rick and Al have collaborated on one of the most remarkable stories to come out of the Marvel 2099 universe since it was founded! Finally, we can tell you that it features a phalanx of villains, including Venom and our own Vulture 2099 (making one of the most requested re-appearances in history.) If you've been a fan of SPIDEY 2099 from the start, or even if you've been just dabbling the book here and there, (and who wouldn't wanna be that?), this special edition has everything!



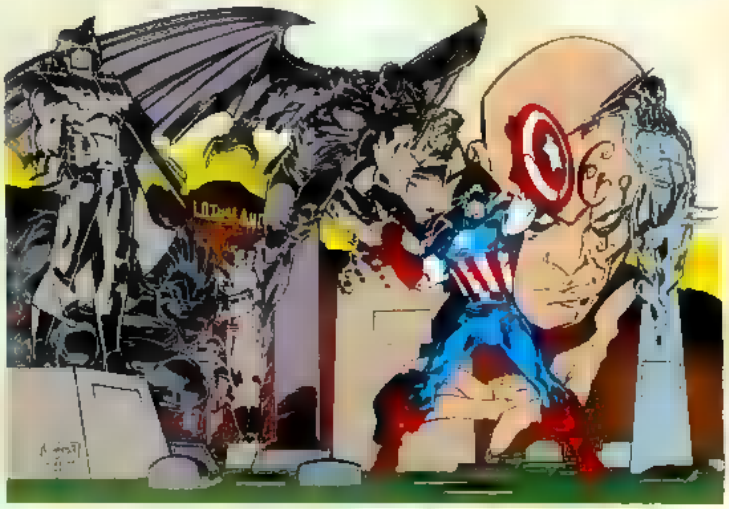


Another Big Deal!

Oh yeah! Here's the cover to the SPIDER-MAN 2099 SPECIAL by the Bros. Hildebrandt. It's on sale this month! More about that below!

It's Always Darkest-

What's the recipe for any really exciting story? "Things get bad; then things get worse!" In 2099 A.D. APOCALYPSE, events go from bad to worse at lightspeed (geez, what a selling point!) No less than four 2099 stalwarts fall in the heat of battle...and DOOM 2099 writer Warren Ellis took especial glee in concocting, shall we say, a final episode in one character's life you must see it!



-Before The Dawn!

The following month, thrill to 2099 A.D. GENESIS! This is the first [illegible] in the 2099 universe since the conclusion of Doom's reign...and the even bleaker administration of (gulp) Captain America 2099! We've seen some pretty tough times in our time corner of the cosmos, but mostly there's a new hope ahead. Not only do we fan the first flames of the newer world to come, but we'll also usher in the new generation of decades and the [illegible] the 2099 banner high for all to see!

That Is To Say-

We're introducing two new books at year's end...or as we'd rather see it, years BEGINNING! FANTASTIC FOUR 2099...and (wait for it) X-NATION 2099! We'll say more about them next ish, but we'll leave you with this: whatever your expectations are...set them higher! (A fine philosophy of life too, no?)

MORE OF MARVEL 2099

SPIDER-MAN 2099 #37—A cast member dies and the mystery deepens...who is Venom 2099?

[illegible]DER-MAN 2099 [illegible] #1—An extra-large edition jammed with [illegible] Spidey [illegible] Features the debut of Chameleon 2099...and the Man-Spider!

GHOST [illegible] #19—A posse [illegible] new villains [illegible] the Net's

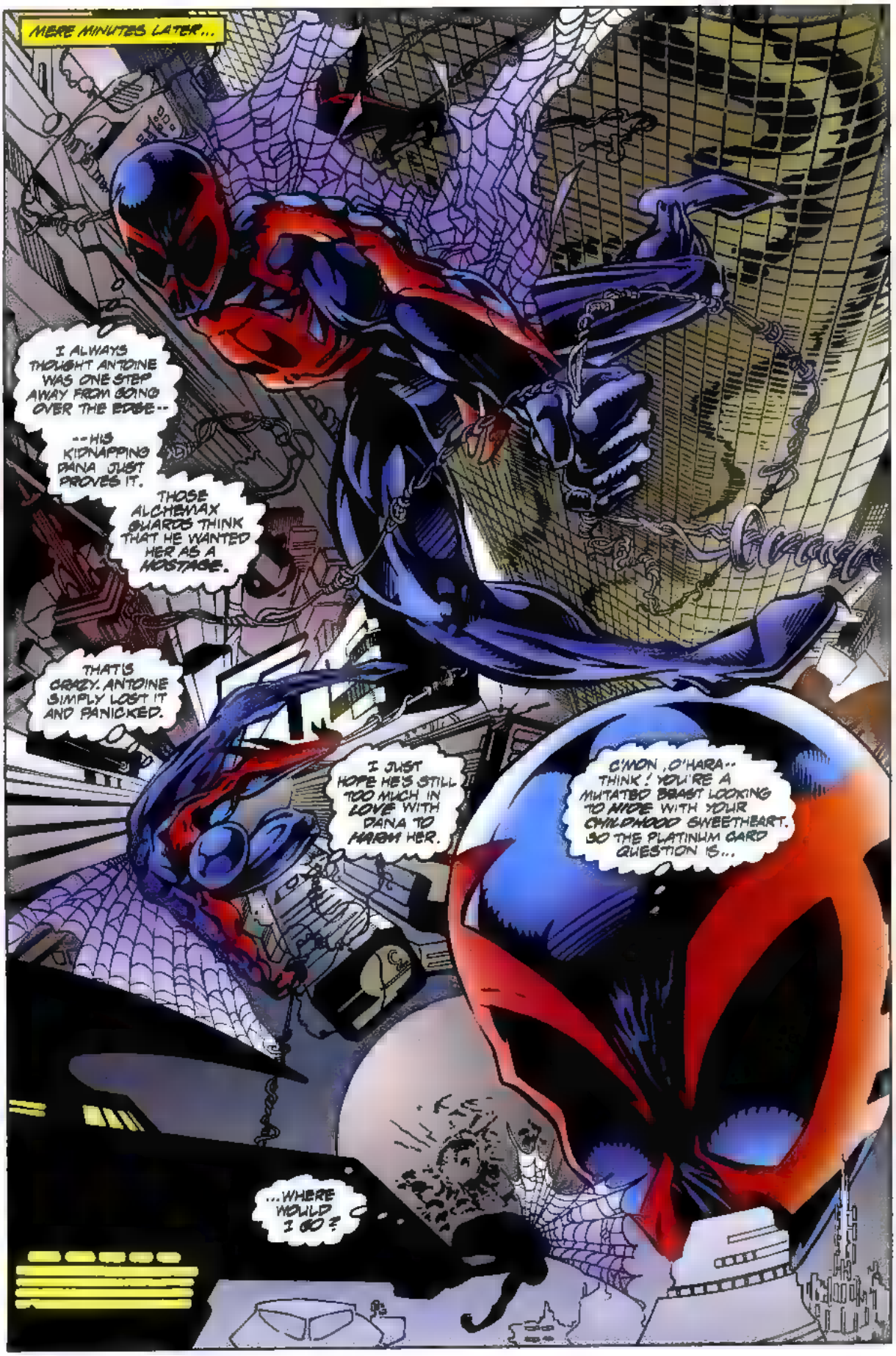
DOOM 2099 #36—Doom got his adamantium lanxide [illegible] he's clawing his [illegible] back to the top! Nastier than [illegible] right to [illegible]

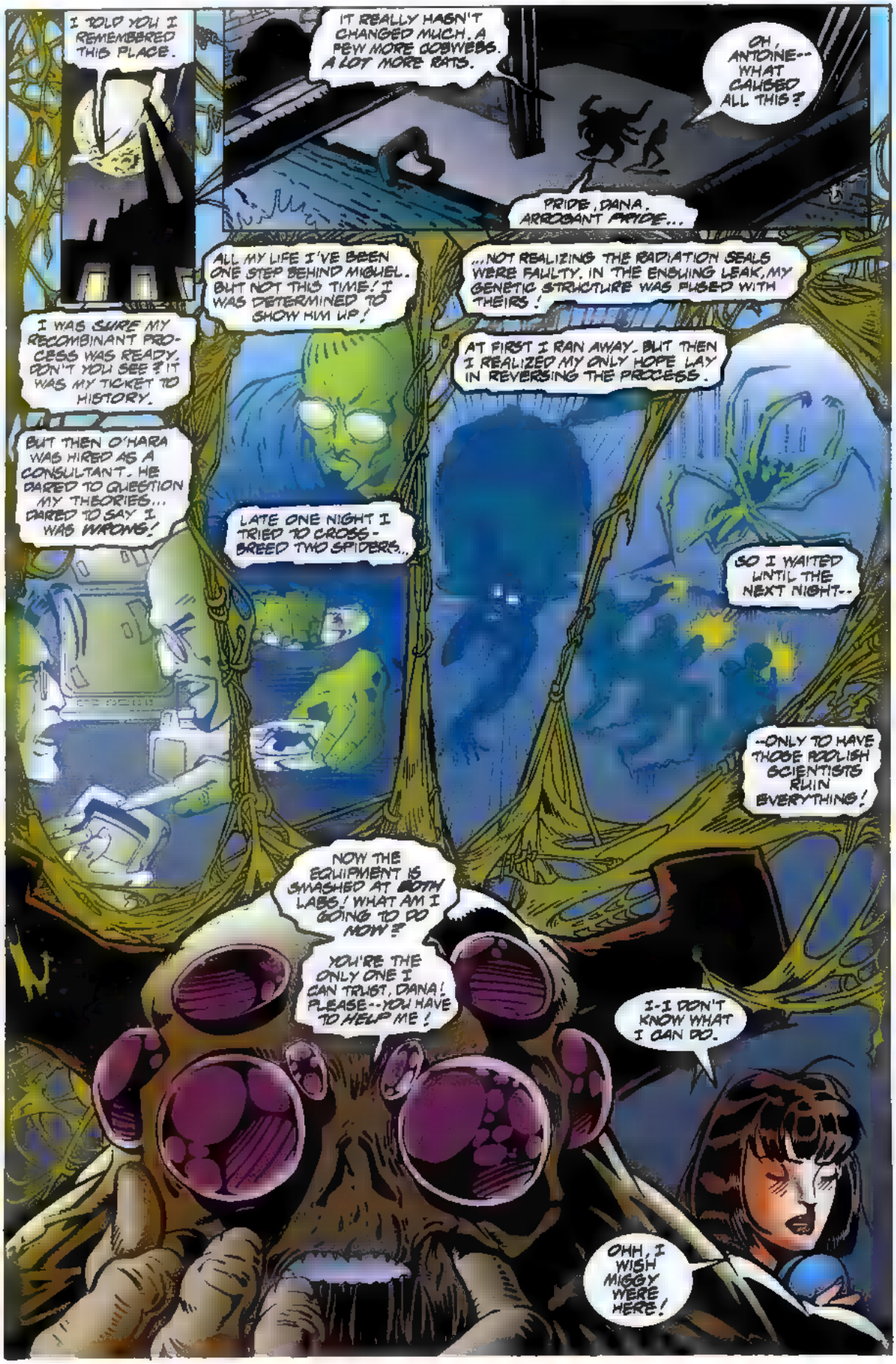
[illegible] 2099 [illegible] entire team as [illegible] strident until! The [illegible] wanna [illegible] of [illegible] is [illegible] place [illegible] start!

OKAY. BRACE YOURSELVES. THIS IS IT.
MR. STONE WANTS PROOF IT WORKS? WELL, MELDING A CATERPILLAR...
...AND A BULL OUGHT TO DO THE TRICK!
ARE THEY BLIND?
TOYING WITH MY CREATION! TRIFLING WITH THE LAWS OF NATURE!
LOOK WHAT THEY'VE DONE!
ROAR!
HRUF
HRUF
INCREDIBLE! IT'S BROKEN OUT OF THE STASIS CHAMBER!
RUN!

I KNEW ALCHEMAX BUILT A COPY OF MY REACTOR FOR THEIR OWN TWISTED PURPOSES!
I CAME HERE HOPING TO USE IT... TO SAVE MY LIFE. BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT ALL THIS!
KICK
KICK
CRASH
FFF
WHY SHOULD I HELP THEM? THEY STOLE MY LIFE'S WORK. CORPORATE THIEVES DESERVE TO DIE! THEY...
WHAT AM I SAYING?! I CAN'T LET INNOCENT BLOOD BE SPILT OVER MY WORK! HAVE TO SAVE THAT WOMAN--
DANA?!
THAT VOICE!
I KNOW THAT VOICE!
HAVE TO USE MY MULTIPLE LIMBS AND TALONS TO RIP THIS BEAST TO SHREDS!
SLASH
RRRRIP
SLICE
WATCH OUT FOR HIS TAIL! HE'S WOUNDED AND ONLY GETTING MADDER!
GRRRR
ANTOINE!
WHAM

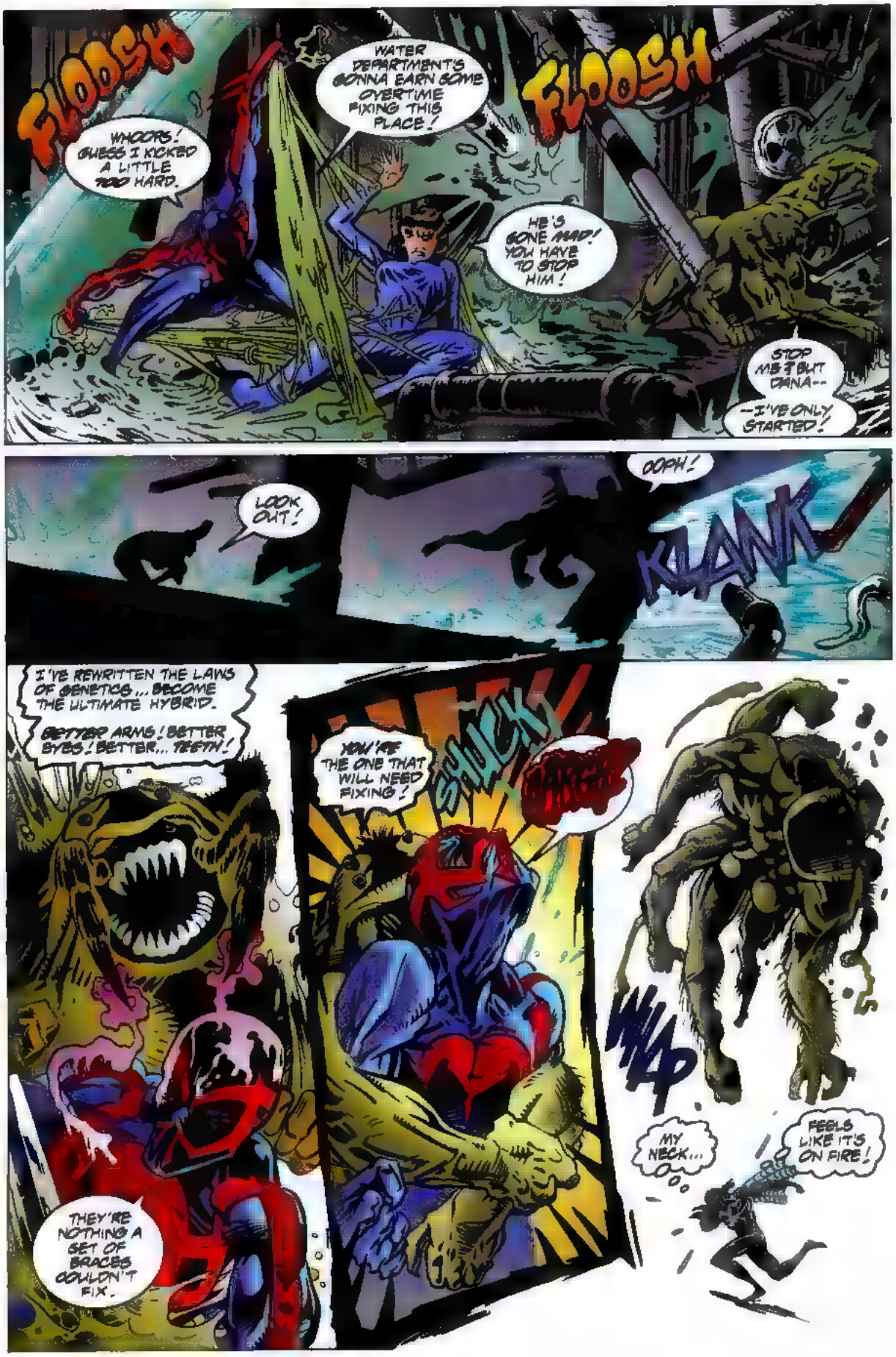
EVERYONE STAND BACK! SECURITY!
KILL IT!
ANTOINE! THAT POOR MAN WAS CAUGHT BEHIND YOU!
THE BLOW INTO THE WALL MUST HAVE SNAPPED HIS NECK.
HE'S DEAD!
LOOK! THAT THING HAS DR. MAREK!
IT'S MURDERED HIM!
NOOO!
IT WASN'T MY FAULT! I WAS TRYING TO HELP!
DANA -- TELL THEM! YOU BELIEVE ME!
L-LET GO! YOU'RE SCARING ME!
WHAT'S GOIN' ON? I WAS IN MY OFFICE WHEN I HEARD THE SECURITY ALERT ON MY SCANNER.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SPIDER CREATURE? WHERE DID IT GO?
YOU AIN'T GONNA LIKE THIS, MR. O'HARA. THAT PRETTY LITTLE MISS OF YOURS...
...THAT THING JUST TOOK HER!


MERE MINUTES LATER...
I ALWAYS THOUGHT ANTOINE WAS ONE STEP AWAY FROM GOING OVER THE EDGE--
--HIS KIDNAPPING DANA JUST PROVES IT.
THOSE ALCHEMAX GUARDS THINK THAT HE WANTED HER AS A HOSTAGE.
THAT'S CRAZY. ANTOINE SIMPLY LOST IT AND PANICKED.
I JUST HOPE HE'S STILL TOO MUCH IN LOVE WITH DANA TO HARM HER.
C'MON, O'HARA-- THINK! YOU'RE A MUTATED BEAST LOOKING TO HIDE WITH YOUR CHILDHOOD SWEETHEART. SO THE PLATINUM CARD QUESTION IS...
...WHERE WOULD I GO?


I TOLD YOU I REMEMBERED THIS PLACE.
IT REALLY HASN'T CHANGED MUCH. A FEW MORE COBWEBS. A LOT MORE RATS.
OH, ANTOINE-- WHAT CAUSED ALL THIS?
PRIDE, DANA. ARROGANT PRIDE...
ALL MY LIFE I'VE BEEN ONE STEP BEHIND MIGUEL. BUT NOT THIS TIME! I WAS DETERMINED TO SHOW HIM UP!
...NOT REALIZING THE RADIATION SEALS WERE FAULTY. IN THE ENSUING LEAK, MY GENETIC STRUCTURE WAS FUSED WITH THEIRS!
I WAS SURE MY RECOMBINANT PROCESS WAS READY. DON'T YOU SEE? IT WAS MY TICKET TO HISTORY.
AT FIRST I RAN AWAY. BUT THEN I REALIZED MY ONLY HOPE LAY IN REVERSING THE PROCESS.
BUT THEN O'HARA WAS HIRED AS A CONSULTANT. HE DARED TO QUESTION MY THEORIES... DARED TO SAY I WAS WRONG!
LATE ONE NIGHT I TRIED TO CROSS-BREED TWO SPIDERS...
SO I WAITED UNTIL THE NEXT NIGHT--
--ONLY TO HAVE THOSE FOOLISH SCIENTISTS RUIN EVERYTHING!
NOW THE EQUIPMENT IS SMASHED AT BOTH LABS! WHAT AM I GOING TO DO NOW?
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN TRUST, DANA! PLEASE--YOU HAVE TO HELP ME!
I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT I CAN DO.
OHH, I WISH MIGGY WERE HERE!

MIGUEL? MIGUEL?!
HOW DARE YOU CALL HIM?!
HE HAS THE INTELLECT OF A CHILD--
--WHILE I'VE UNLOCKED THE MYSTERY OF LIFE ITSELF!
I CAN FEEL THE POWER, DANA. I CAN FEEL MY BODY BEING REBORN.
WHY SHOULD I WASTE MY TIME ON YOU? I'VE EVOLVED BEYOND YOU!
WITNESS THE ULTIMATE TRANSFORMATION...
...BEHOLD...
THE MAN-SPIDER!
EEEEK!

HEY, GUYS! SORRY I'M LATE, BUT I HAD TO STOP AND PICK UP SOME BUG SPRAY.
INDUSTRIAL SIZE!
SPIDER-MAN!
ARGH!


FLOOSH
WHOOPS! GUESS I KICKED A LITTLE TOO HARD.
WATER DEPARTMENT'S GONNA EARN SOME OVERTIME FIXING THIS PLACE!
FLOOSH
HE'S GONE MAD! YOU HAVE TO STOP HIM!
STOP ME? BUT DANA--
--I'VE ONLY STARTED!
LOOK OUT!
OOPH!
KLANK
I'VE REWRITTEN THE LAWS OF GENETICS... BECOME THE ULTIMATE HYBRID.
BETTER ARMS! BETTER EYES! BETTER... TEETH!
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT WILL NEED FIXING!
SHUCK
THEY'RE NOTHING A SET OF BRACES COULDN'T FIX.
MY NECK...
FEELS LIKE IT'S ON FIRE!

VENOM!
HE CAN GENERATE A SPIDER'S TOXIN JUST LIKE ME. SHOULD'VE SEEN THAT COMING!
FEEL WEAK. WHOLE BODY'S GOING NUMB. CAN'T...SEE STRAIGHT...
AWW... SOMEONE FELL DOWN.
HERE, LET ME HELP YOU!
HA HA HA
BACK OFF, LAUGHING BOY! GO EARN YOUR MERIT BADGE SOMEPLACE ELSE.
SHOCK! BARELY ENOUGH STRENGTH LEFT TO STAND! JUST HAVE TO HOPE MY BODY CAN SHAKE THIS OFF QUICKER THAN A NORMAL PERSON.
CAN'T LET HIM GET TO DANA.
UGH! NO GOOD--I'M LOSING IT! GONNA PASS...
...OUT...

SOMETHING'S WRONG!
SPIDER-MAN'S BARELY ABLE TO FIGHT BACK.
OOH, THAT'S GOTTA HURT!
CRASH!
AH, THAT'S IT. YOU JUST LIE THERE AND RELAX--
--AS I ROB YOUR VERY LIFE FROM YOU!
NO!
KRAK
UNNGH!

WOW! DANA! YOU... YOU DARED TO HIT ME WITH THIS?!
OH, ANTOINE-- PLEASE! JUST LEAVE US ALONE!
HOW IRONIC. HOW SWEETLY POETIC!
NOW I CAN SEE YOUR BETRAYAL IS COMPLETE! I--
COOL OFF, SHAKESPEARE.
NOO!
SPLASH
THIS TRAGEDY IS OVER.
HE--HE'S GONE! WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
I'M SORRY... ER, MISS. THE CURRENT MUST'VE PULLED HIM UNDER.
HE'LL BE SWEPT THROUGH A COUPLE MILES OF PIPE...

"... UNTIL HIS BODY FINALLY WASHES OUT IN A SEWAGE DRAIN SOMEWHERE."
SO THIS IS ALL THAT'S LEFT.
A DATABASE FILLED WITH ANTOINE'S THEORIES... AS WELL AS ALL OF HIS IDEALS. THANKFULLY, BOTH SYNTHIA AND ALCHEMAX'S MACHINES WERE DESTROYED BEYOND REPAIR--
TARANTELLA FILE OX187295 COPY COMPLETED
--WHILE SOME BACKDOOR HACKING WILL ALLOW ME TO SECRETLY WIPE ALL OF THE FILES.
WELL, MAYBE NOT COMPLETELY..
HEY, NORMIE! HOW'S THAT DRAINAGE CHECK COMIN'? ANYTHING CLOGGIN' THAT ONE?
ANTOINE'S WORK DESERVES A CHANCE. BUT ONLY IN THE HANDS OF THE RIGHT PEOPLE.
HIYA, MIGGY. READY FOR LUNCH?
JUST FINISHING.
WHAT'CHA DOING?
OH, NOTHING. JUST TRYING TO KEEP A DREAM ALIVE...
...AND SAFE.
TARANTELLA FILE OX187295 ERASING
NAH, AIN'T NUTHIN' OVER HERE. JUST SOME WEIRD GOOP BUILDUP.
SHEESH! WHAT THE SHOCK IS THIS STUFF?
FIN?

FIRELIGHT IN:
AFTER IMAGE
BASH
CYBERSPACE. A NICE PLACE TO VISIT, BUT YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO LIVE HERE.
IT'S A VAST CONSENSUAL HALLUCINATION WHERE THOUSANDS OF NET USERS DAILY WORK, REST AND PLAY...
IAN EDGINTON WRITER
VINCE GIARRANO ARTIST
STEVE DUTRO LETTERER
MIKE THOMAS COLORIST
CAVALIERI EDITOR
CHASE CHIEF
MALIBU COMPUTER COLOR

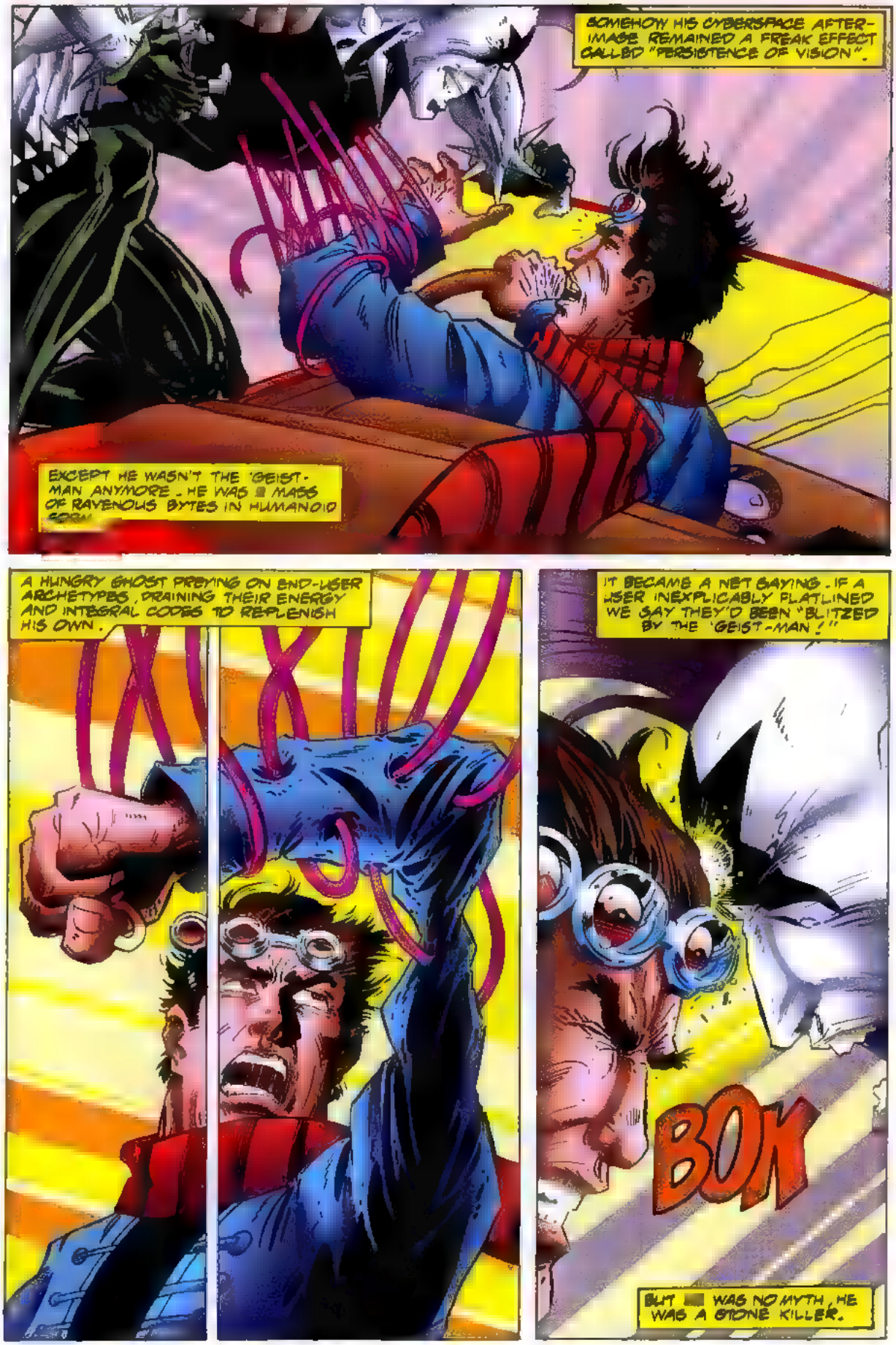
AUTO CRUISE
...AND KILL, DEPENDING [redacted] PROFILE.
YOU CAN'T REALLY PHYSICALLY DIE HERE, SINCE YOU'VE NO BODY TO EXPIRE...
...BUT [redacted] CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM CAN BE TRAUMATIZED INTO MASSIVE TERMINAL NEURAL [redacted].
WOK
THWIP
PERSONALLY, IT'S NOT MY IDEA OF A FUN TIME.

NOT LIKE EARLIER, WHEN I WAS OUT RUNNING PROGRAM UPGRADES ON MY GRID RACER.
MEATSIDE, GABRIEL O'HARA'S JUST ANOTHER HANDSOME FACE IN THE CROWD.
BUT DOWNLOADED AS FIRELIGHT, MY COMPUTER ARCHETYPE, I'VE A DASHING REP TO MAINTAIN.
FAST CARS, FAST WOMEN...
...AND A NOSE FOR TROUBLE.
A NET NOVICE HAD CRASHED AND BURNED BIG TIME.
ONLY [redacted] AS [redacted] A NOVICE WOULD CRUISE THE NET IN A [redacted] TYRANNOSAUR.

THEY'RE MOSTLY BLACK CARD BRATS WITH BYTES TO BURN. WASTING DOWN-TIME SCORING POINTS OFF EACH OTHER, COMPUTER-GENERATING THE WILDEST OF VEHICLES.
EXCEPT THERE WAS ONE WHO WASN'T PLAYING ANYMORE. HE WAS DIGITAL DEADWARE...
...STRIPPED OF HIS INTEGRAL CODE, WHILE ELSEWHERE HIS BRAIN HAD TURNED TO POT ROAST.
IT HAD AN UNCOMFORTABLY FAMILIAR RING TO IT. ECHOES OF A STORY THAT MY BROTHER MIGUEL SCARED THE PANTS OFF ME WITH AS A KID.
SHEEEEEE
I DIDN'T THINK IT POSSIBLE...

...BUT IT WAS HIM!
BASH
BLITZGEIST, THE NET MYTH, THE DEUS EX MACHINA, THE NOTORIOUS CYBERSPACE BOGEYMAN!
ALREADY, HE'D CLAIMED ANOTHER VICTIM. MY "COMPANION" WAS CRUMBLING INTO PIXELS!
HE CUMS NO SHOCKIN' ICE WITH ME!
HE'D CRASHED MY UPGRADES. I DIDN'T WANT TO THINK HOW LONG IT'D TAKE TO RE-CONFIGURE AND RE-BOOT THEM ALL...
SHOOMM

.. I JUST WANTED TO GET EVEN!
[redacted] MAXXED OUTPUT, BURNING LONG CHAIN EQUATIONS. HIS RATBITIN' TAIL WAS MINE. WHEN SU[redacted]LY IT HIT ME...
I WAS TAKING ON THE 'GEIST-MAN HIMSELF! THE MEANEST CONSOLE JOCKEY FROM THE NET'S EARLY DAYS.
AN OLD-STYLE OUTLAW OF THE NEON FRONTIER.
LEGEND SAYS HE WAS KILLED BY AN EXPERIMENTAL SECURITY VIRUS WHILE RAIDING THE SIBERIAN [redacted] GENS-CORE.
KRASH

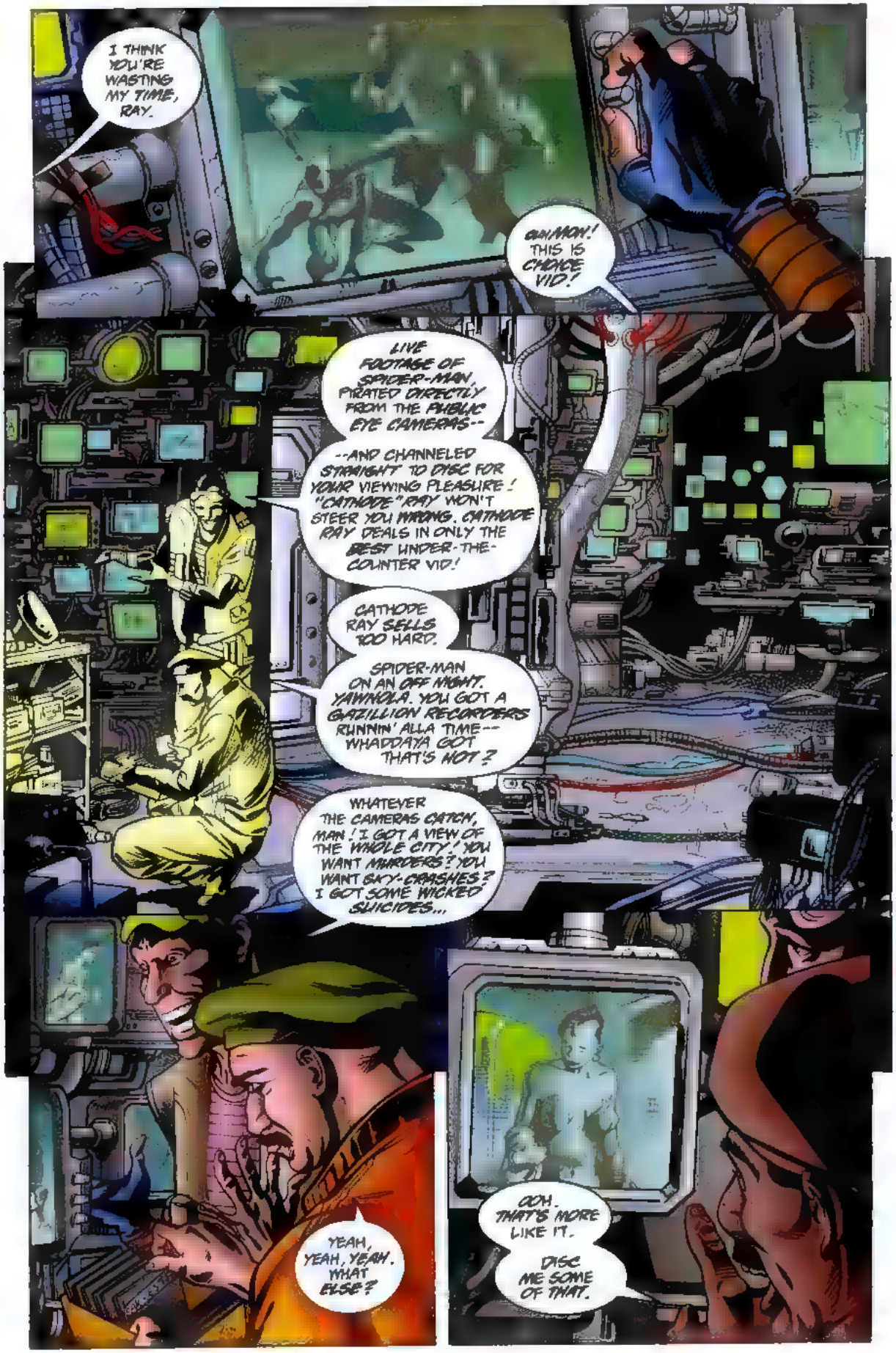

SOMEHOW HIS CYBERSPACE AFTER-IMAGE REMAINED A FREAK EFFECT CALLED "PERSISTENCE OF VISION".
EXCEPT HE WASN'T THE 'GEIST-MAN ANYMORE - HE WAS A MASS OF RAVENOUS BYTES IN HUMANOID FORM.
A HUNGRY GHOST PREYING ON END-USER ARCHETYPES, DRAINING THEIR ENERGY AND INTEGRAL CODES TO REPLENISH HIS OWN.
IT BECAME A NET SAYING - IF A USER INEXPLICABLY FLATLINED WE SAY THEY'D BEEN "BLITZED BY THE 'GEIST-MAN!"
BOK
BUT [redacted] WAS NO MYTH, HE WAS A STONE KILLER.

I RECALLED HEARING ABOUT A CLASS [redacted] IRISH SCHOOL KIDS FLATLINING ON A VISIT TO THE NET...
KRAK
...THE VR PILOT OF A FRENCH JETFOIL, BRAINWIPED IN TRANSIT, FIVE HUNDRED DIED.
COUNTLESS DEATHS OVER THE YEARS, ATTRIBUTED TO GLITCHES, BUGS AND SYSTEM ERRORS.
WHEN IN TRUTH THEY MOST LIKELY FED THE APPETITES [redacted] THIS VIRTUAL VAMPIRE.
BUT NO MORE.
I'M NO NET NOVICE! NO EASY TARGET!

I'M FIRELIGHT!
MIGWEL'S NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH A DUAL IDENTITY AND SOCIAL CONSCIENCE!
BASH
THE 'GEIST-MAN'S ARCHETYPE MAY'VE BEEN HOT IN HIS DAY...
VRRRRRRR
... BUT THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW!
[redacted] HISTORY LESSON TO LEARN THE HARD WAY.
AND THE HARDER THEY COME...

... THE HARDER THEY FALL !
KAWHOOM
I GUESS THEY DON'T MAKE LEGENDS LIKE THEY USED TO ANYMORE.
END

EYE SPY
[redacted] WAID · WRITER
GABRIEL MORRISSETTE · PENCILER
CAM SMITH · INKER
MIK[redacted] THOMAS · COLORIST
STEVE DUTRO · LETTERER
JOEY CAVALIERY · EDITOR
MALIBU · COMPUTER COLOR SEPARATIONS
BOBBIE CHASE · EDITOR IN CHIEF
A STAN LEE PRESENTATION
YOW.
RIGHT ACROSS THE FACE.
NAH TO HURT.
SO? WHADDAYA THINK?
AN UNTOLD TALE OF SPIDER-MAN 2099!

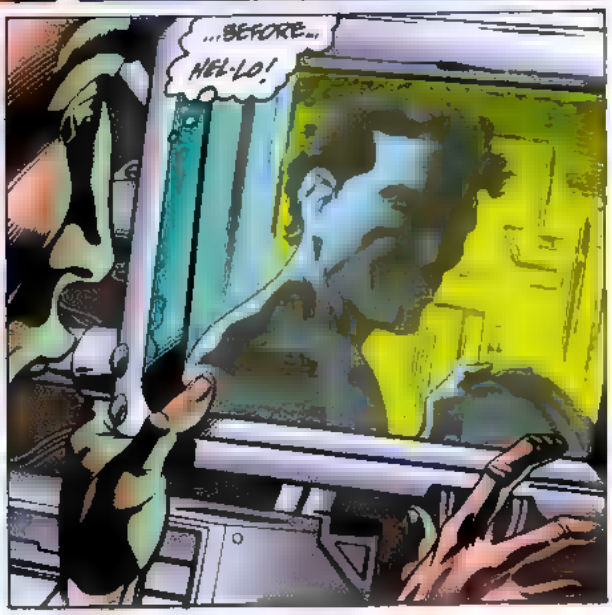

I THINK YOU'RE WASTING MY TIME, RAY.
OHMON! THIS IS CHOICE VID!
LIVE FOOTAGE OF SPIDER-MAN, PIRATED DIRECTLY FROM THE PUBLIC EYE CAMERAS--
--AND CHANNELED STRAIGHT TO DISC FOR YOUR VIEWING PLEASURE! "CATHODE" RAY WON'T STEER YOU WRONG. CATHODE RAY DEALS IN ONLY THE BEST UNDER-THE-COUNTER VID!
CATHODE RAY SELLS TOO HARD.
SPIDER-MAN ON AN OFF NIGHT. YAWNOLA. YOU GOT A GAZILLION RECORDERS RUNNIN' ALLA TIME--- WHADDAYA GOT THAT'S NOT?
WHATEVER THE CAMERAS CATCH, MAN! I GOT A VIEW OF THE WHOLE CITY! YOU WANT MURDERS? YOU WANT GAY-CRASHES? I GOT SOME WICKED SUICIDES...
YEAH, YEAH, YEAH. WHAT ELSE?
OOH. THAT'S MORE LIKE IT.
DISC ME SOME OF THAT.

PHILISTINE.
PEEPIN' TOM
SIR, YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY A MAN OF TASTE.
MAY I RECOMMEND SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE... PROVOCATIVE? MORE EXCITING?

SCOPE THIS. SNUFF STUFF--PULLED IT IN LAST WEEK. NOT EVEN THE EYE SAW THIS.
SERIAL KILLER. COPS CALL HIM "JUMPCUT". TELEPORTS IN... SLICES AND DICES, THEN 'PORTS OUT BEFORE HE'S NAILED. CHOICE!
YEAH. HEARD YOU HAD FOOTAGE ON HIM...
NAH. PASS.

THIS'LL KEEP ME WARM TONIGHT.
I'M SURE. PLEASE--WATCH YOUR STEP.
AND COME AGAIN.

AH, TO DEAL WITH CLODS LIKE THAT-- WHO SAYS I DON'T SUFFER FOR MY ART?
STILL, I MAY AS WELL WIPE THIS DISC. SPIDEY VERSUS STREET PUNKS. NOTHING THERE I HAVEN'T SEEN...


...BEFORE...
HEL-LO!

I SEE IT, BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
CHK
YLLT
HE'S UNMASKED! IT WAS BLURRED, IT WAS SHADOWED, BUT HE UNMASKED!
A LITTLE COMPUTER ENHANCEMENT--
--AND I CAN TWEAK THAT SHOT UP TO FULL DETAIL!
OH MAN OH MAN OH MAN-- THIS IS NOT!
IF THIS VID FELL INTO THE EYE'S HANDS-- SO TO SPEAK--
SHRAKOWW
YEARGH!
--THEY COULD SEE WHO HE IS-- AND PUT THIS GUY AWAY FOR GOOD!
WHAT THE--?
OH, NO.
YOU.
YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING ME.
SLIDE WITH IT, RAYMOND. SLIDE...
NOT ME. NEVER SAW YOU BEFORE. CAN'T PLACE THE FACE, DON'T KNOW--
SHUT UP, RAY. YOU'VE BEEN A SLOPPY BOY.

I HEAR THE VOICES. EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT ME. YOU TALKED TOO MUCH...AND WORD GOT AROUND.
I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING ME. YOU BRAGGED TO TOO MANY CUSTOMERS ABOUT WHAT'S ON THAT DISC.
N-NO! THIS DISC ISN'T--
DON'T LIE TO ME, RAY!
B-BUT--
I CAUGHT WHAT YOU SAID. "IF THIS FELL INTO THE EYE'S HANDS..."
BUT IT WON'T, WILL IT?
I DON'T LIKE THAT YOU HAVE MY FACE, RAY. GIVE UP THE DISC.
S-SURE. BUT WHY STOP WITH ONE? LEMME SHOW YA WHAT ELSE I GOT...
NO TRICKS!
FROM ME? I WOULDN'T YANK YA, MAN...
...OR WOULD I?
ALLEZ-OOP!
THAT WAS FOOLISH, RAY...
RAY?
RAY!
GONE.
I WANT THAT DISC, RAY.
PLEASE... PLEASE... MAKE ME PRY IT OUT OF YOUR COLD, DEAD FINGERS...

THREE DAYS LATER.
WHAT THE SHOCK?
IT'S ME--TEN STORIES TALL! A HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTION! BUT WHAT AM I--
NO! THE SHADOWS ARE FALLING AWAY...
...AND MY I.D. IS COMING INTO FOCUS--FOR THE WHOLE WORLD TO SEE!
?
OR NOT.
IT'S A LOOP! THE SAME THREE SECONDS OVER AND OVER--CUTTING AWAY JUST BEFORE I GIVE UP MY SECRET!
IT'S FOOTAGE FROM THE OTHER NIGHT! I WAS HURT AND TIRED... AND CARELESS! I UNMASKED IN AN ALLEY TO CHECK FOR HOLINDS--
--AND NOW SOMEONE'S RECORDED MY TRUE FACE ON VID!

BUT WHO-- AND WHERE'S THE HOLO COMING FROM?
SECOND QUESTION FIRST. THE OPTIMUM PROJECTION ANGLE WOULD BE FROM UP HERE...
AH HA! LOOKS LIKE A HOLOBOX TO ME!
WELL, ROLL THOSE CREDITS-- THIS SHOW IS OVER.
FWIP
HEY!
HEY!
THWA
WHAT'S WITH THE GOD, MAN? THIS IS A PRECISION INSTRUMENT! YOU THINK THIS STUFF COMES CHEAP?
I DON'T THINK I CARE.
WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE DID YOU GET THAT VID?
WE'LL GET TO IT. KEEP YOUR MEDS TUCKED. FIRST I WANNA--
ANSWERS. NOW.
AAAHH!
PERHAPS I DIDN'T MAKE MYSELF CLEAR. WE'RE ON MY TIMETABLE, SKIN.
OKAY! OKAY! I'M SORRY I FLASHED IT, MAN!
I BEEN ON THE RUN FOR THREE DAYS! I HAD TO GET YOUR ATTENTION SOMEHOW! YOU'RE MY ONLY HOPE!
ONLY YOU CAN SAVE ME!
FROM WHAT?

FROM JUMPCUT!
SHOCK--WHAT A HORRIBLE SCREAM! IF HE'S 'PORTING WITH HIS OWN SUIT, IT MUST HURT TO THE BONE!
ACTUALLY, I'VE SEEN HIS FACE.
I THINK HE LIKES IT.
SIZZAK
I'VE HEARD OF THIS ONE. LASER TALONS. NASTY WEAPONS.
GIVE ME THE DISC!
SMART CREDS WOULD BE TO RUN AND HIDE!
SIZZAK
THE DISC!
BUT I CAN'T. I'VE GOT TO PROTECT THIS LITTLE RATBAG--
GIVE ME BACK MY FACE, RAY!
SIZZAK

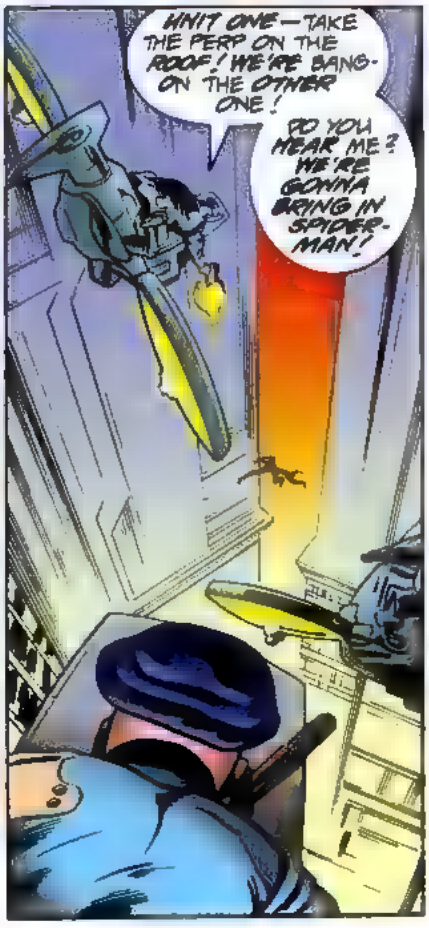
--AT LEAST UNTIL I CAN FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON BETWEEN THESE TWO!
WHOA! WHOA! THE ROOF!
GOODBYE, SPIDER-MAN.
ZAK
NOT SO FAST, VIDBOY.
EEP.
I REALLY ENJOY MY WORK, RAY. LET ME SHOW YOU JUST HOW MUCH.
I CAN KILL IN A BLINK, AND NO ONE CAN TOUCH ME--
NOT AS LONG AS I'M WEARING MY SUIT--
AARRGH!
SWIFT
SWIFT
AND JUST HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WEARING THAT SUIT?
STOP MOCKING ME! STOP IT!

OH, GET USED TO IT.
SCCHH!
YOU'LL BE THE LAUGHING STOCK OF CELL BLOCK 47 ONCE THE EYE HAULS YOU IN!
THWAP
NO! I'LL CUT YOU FIRST!
NOT WITH MERCURY IN YOUR LASERS YOU WON'T!
THWAP
SO--YOU THINK I'M HELPLESS NOW, DO YOU?
WELL
HNGH
THAT'S
WHERE
YOU'RE
WRONG!
SSSHHHHHARRRR!
KOW!
SO MUCH FOR HIM.
STOP STANDING IN MY WAY, RAY. HAND OVER THE DISC...
...WHILE YOU STILL HAVE HANDS.
YOU TALKIN' TO ME?

I SAID--ARE YOU TALKIN' TO ME?
WHAT...?
TO ME?
TO ME?
TO ME?
TO ME?
THIS--THIS IS SOME TRICK! YOU CAN'T FOOL ME!
OH, YEAH?
SINCE WHEN?
QUHH--
THWAM
TIMELY DISTRACTION. NICE THINKING. HOLO-PROJECTIONS, I ASSUME?
COMPLETE WITH SOUND BITE. SET IT UP WHILE HE WAS CLEANING YOUR CLOCK.
HE WASN'T--
FINE. SKIP IT.
LET'S JUST CONCENTRATE ON WRAPPING THIS LOON UP FOR THE--
FREEZE!

AS AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE [redacted] EYE, WE ORDER YOU TO SURRENDER -- OR FACE DEADLY FORCE!
FLYBOYS!
OH, NO.
OH, NO NO NO NO NO...

HALT!
CHOOM
AHHH! I SURRENDER!
THE SHOCK YOU DO!

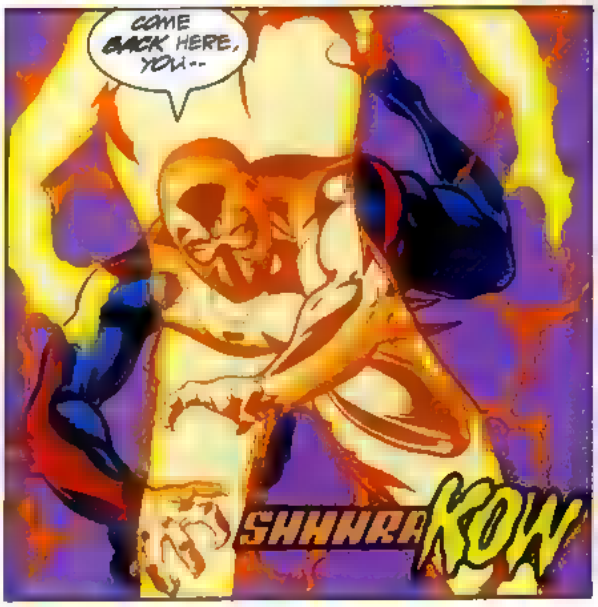

UNIT ONE—TAKE THE PERP ON THE ROOF! WE'RE BANG-ON THE OTHER ONE!
DO YOU HEAR ME? WE'RE GONNA BRING IN SPIDER-MAN!

WHICH WAY...?
DOWN HERE! FOLLOW ME!
SHHH!
SIR, ARE YOU SURE?
I SAID FOLLOW ME!
OH SNOCK OH SNOCK OH SNOCK OH SNOCK!
WHEW! CLOSE BUZZ-- BUT THE FAY-MAN IS SAFE IN THE HANDS OF THE SPIDERMAN ONE!
YOU WISH.
NO MORE WISECRACKS, VIDBOY... STRAIGHT TALK.
WHY IS JUMPCUT SO HOT FOR THAT DISC?
HE--HE'S JUST MIXED UP! FIGURES THIS ONE'LL I.D. HIM TO THE EYE... THINKS IT SHOWS HIS FACE.
AND DOES IT?
NUH-NO! BUT ONCE HE LEARNS OTHERWISE, MAN... I'M RAY FILET!
I BET YOU WISH THAT WERE MY PROBLEM. UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, IT'S NOT!
SUH-SUAVE IT IS, MAN! Y-YOU OWE ME!
OH, THIS IS GOING TO BE GOOD...
YEAH! WITH J-JUMPCUT! REMEMBER? HUH-HOLO-DISTORTIONS? I... I SAVED YOUR LIFE BACK THERE, MAN!
I FOUGHT JUMPCUT BECAUSE OF YOU, WORMFOOD.
OH, YEAH.
TALK FAST. HOW MUCH OF ME DOES THAT DISC REVEAL?
NOW? NOT ENOUGH. BUT WITH AUGMENTATION, MAN, I COULD...
AAAAGH!
I MEAN... I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING!
YET.
EVER. EVER!
YOU WANT IT BACK, MAN? HERE IT IS!

SSSHH
KOW
YAHSSS!
BOOP

AT LAST... THE DISC IS MINE!
YOU! I THOUGHT THE SKYDOGS HAD YOU!
WHOOAHHH!

I ESCAPED. BELIEVE ME...THEY WERE BROKEN UP ABOUT THE LOSS.
IN FACT, YOU MIGHT SAY THEY WENT TO PIECES!
YOU
BUTCHER!
TWIP


COME BACK HERE, YOU--
SHHNRA
KOW

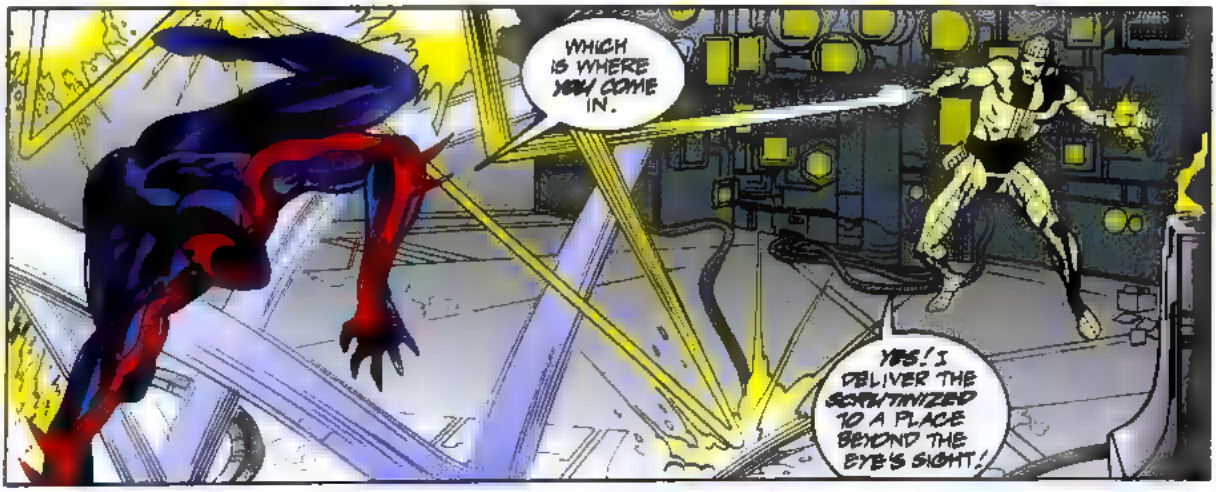
--YOU--
SHOOK.

FWIP
THAT'S IT.
IT'S OVER.
ALL OVER.
AH, MAN... WHY'D I HAVE TO LOSE THE DISC ...?
SHUT UP.
YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT [redacted]? LET'S.
I JUST LOST A SERIAL KILLER. THAT MAKES SPIDER-MAN PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR WHATEVER BLOOD THAT LUNATIC SHEDS TOMORROW... AND EVERY DAY THEREAFTER.
NOT THAT THERE'S GOING TO BE A SPIDER-MAN TOMORROW... BECAUSE I ALSO LOST MY BIGGEST SECRET. THAT'LL COST ME MY CAREER... PROBABLY MY LIFE.
JUMPCUT HAS MY FACE ON DISC ... AND THERE'S NO FINDING HIM. HE COULD BE ABSOLUTELY ANYWHERE.
...
YOUR SECRET'S NOT WHAT HE'S REALLY AFTER.
C'MON--

"--I KNOW WHERE HE'LL BE!"
--YAAAARGH!
SSHHRA KOW
YOU PLAYED ME, YOU LITTLE SNOT!
THIS ISN'T THE DISC!
NNNNYY--
SSHKK
THWAP
COOL!
AND HERE I THOUGHT I'D HAVE TO BEAT THIS OUT OF YOU!
YOU-- AGAIN?

NO! YOU'RE JUST LIKE THEM!
WHEREVER I GO... YOU'RE ALWAYS THERE!
T-LAK
T-LAK
T-LAK
T-LAK
YOU'RE ALWAYS WATCHING MEEEE!
OH, GOOD.
SO MUCH FOR TALKING HIM DOWN...

DON'T YOU SEE? THE REAL ENEMY IS THE EYE! THE PUBLIC EYE!
ITS UNBLINKING GAZE IS CONSTANT!
FA-CHOM!
THERE IS NO PRIVACY!
NO REFUGE!
THE EYE WATCHES US--
--IT FOLLOWS US--
--IT JUDGES US!
SKRZK
NO ESCAPE--
--SAVE DEATH!


WHICH IS WHERE YOU COME IN.
YES! I DELIVER THE SCRUTINIZED TO A PLACE BEYOND THE EYE'S SIGHT!

AND WHAT I'VE DONE FOR THEM--
--I'LL GLADLY DO FOR YOU!

DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF.
LISTEN... I DON'T KNOW HOW THAT FUNKY SUIT OF YOURS TELEPORTS...

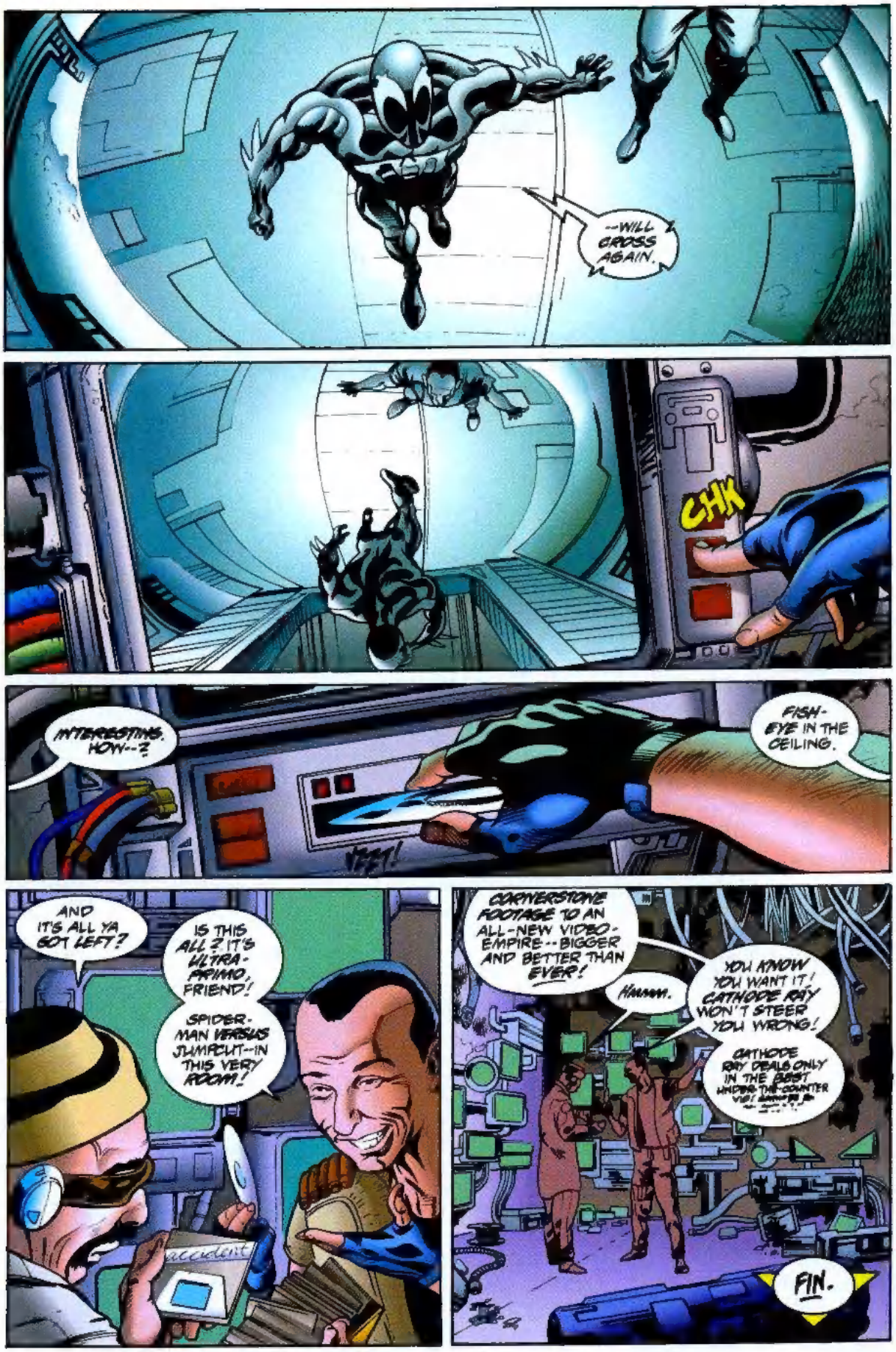
...BUT I'M NOT SURE ALL YOUR MELODRAMS ARE MAKING THE TRIP.

[redacted] KILLER... AND I CANNOT LET [redacted] GET AWAY.
I'M AN ANGEL... AND [redacted] CAN'T HOLD ME.

THEN YOU GIVE ME NO CHOICE. ALL I CAN DO IS GAMBLE...

...THAT YOU CAN'T ESCAPE SAFELY--
THWAP
NOOO! I MUST ESCAPE!
-- WITHOUT SEEING WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
[redacted]! HE TRIED IT ANYWAY!
WHERE DID HE--
NO! LOOK OUT! THE MONITORS!
FAK
--ESCAPE THE EYEBEE!
KRAK
--ESCAPE--
CHOOM
TAKK
SSSHHH
KOWW

TZAK
KRAK
CONGRATULATIONS, JUMPCUT.
YOU GOT YOUR WISH.
OH, MAN... OH MAN... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
THE PLACE IS TOTALED! I'M RUINED, MAN!
AND I'M SUPPOSED TO FEEL SORRY FOR YOU, YOU LITTLE PERV? THIS SERVES YOU RIGHT!
WHAT HAPPENED? YOU GOT TOO BUSY SLEAZING AROUND-- SPYING ON PRIVATE LIVES--TO TURN YOUR JUMPCUT FOOTAGE OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES?
I...I JUST WANTED TO WATCH--!
CRAK IT. IN YOUR OWN WAY YOU'RE EVERY BIT AS TWISTED AS HE WAS.
I...I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN, MAN. YOU WANT ME OUT OF THE BIZ? I'M OUT! BUT ABOUT THE CLEANUP...
TSSH
LIKE I OWE YOU.
DON'T PUSH ME, YOU SICKO. IF I EVER FIND OUT YOU'RE STILL WATCHING ME, THEN TRUST ME--
--OUR PATHS WILL CROSS AGAIN.


--WILL CROSS AGAIN.
CHK
INTERESTING. HOW--?
FISH-EYE IN THE CEILING.
AND IT'S ALL YA GOT LEFT?
IS THIS ALL? IT'S ULTRA-PRIMO, FRIEND!
SPIDER-MAN VERSUS JUMPCUT--IN THIS VERY ROOM!
CORNERSTONE FOOTAGE TO AN ALL-NEW VIDEO-EMPIRE--BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER!
Hmmm.
YOU KNOW YOU WANT IT! CATHODE RAY WON'T STEER YOU WRONG!
CATHODE RAY DEALS ONLY IN THE BEST UNDER THE COUNTER VIDEO
FIN.

ARACHNOPHILIA

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Out Of My Head

Talk about an act that needs no introduction!

How about this issue's cover? If you surmised that it was painted by none other than Greg and Tim Hildebrandt, go to the head of your art appreciation class!

There's a cool cover they did for the X-MEN SPECIAL #1, a real treat by the likes of Ian Edginton, Steve Pugh, J. Calafiore, Peter Palmiotti, Graham Higgins, our old buddy Matt Morra, and the man no X-Men 2099 book would be a party without...John Francis Moore!

Speaking of our California correspondent, John has finally finished his bookshelf tome "Oasis," a full length X-Men 2099 tale that will be completely painted by the Hildebrandts, cover, inside story and all!! Out thanks to my new best friend Jean Scrocco for setting that up!

We've got a big year planned, so stick with us!

Dear Arachnophilia,

I collect all of the 2099 titles and love each and every one of them!

1. I read in GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY that they can time travel. How about involving them in a future crossover?
2. Any other crossovers planned in the near future?
3. Why aren't the X-Men 2099 affected in the "Fall of Apocalypse" storyline?
4. My friend's a big Wolverine fan and showed me a comic where his and this man's age factors were messed up.

Well then if some age factors are fine, can the original Wolverine be in 2099 like the X-Men, maybe even in his own title?

5. Can Venom also have an age sufficient variant thanks to the symbiote?
6. When are the 2099 titles going to become 3000?
7. Where are Thor and the other Gods? Aren't they immortal? It'll be good to have them come back from wherever they are. This planet's in need of their gods to return. Look at how the Thorites are being treated.
8. Any new titles being planned for the near future?
9. What happened to the Parker family? Shouldn't they be mutants or have super powers because of Peter?
10. Why doesn't Spidey 2099 have spider sense?

Until Thor dies of old age, Make Mine Marvel 2099!

Mike X. Nieves
Largo, MD

1. We have some different time travel ideas. 2. After "One Nation Under Doom," there's an event tentatively titled "City of the Dead" to shake story space in both X-MEN 2099 and DOOM. Then, an event more bizarre one to begin in DOOM 2099 again, and spread to the other titles! 3. Didn't our mutants have enough problems? 4. Anything's possible, especially in the "City of the Dead event. 5. Venom 2099 appears starting in SPIDEY 2099 #35! 6. Shouldn't it become 2100 first? 7. Sounds fair. 8. Two, but we're not talking yet. 9. Ummm..... 10. Because he's got cool fangs and talons instead?

Dear Arachnophilia,

This letter is in re: two letters in issue #29 and 30 about a possible Venom 2099. Josh Elliot was correct in commenting how the world in 2099 needs the Venom symbiote. However, he didn't take it far enough. Next, Preston Jones writes and takes the idea farther, but in the wrong direction. First, he suggested that Jordan Boone should take on the Venom mantle. Boone's an obvious bad choice. He already had a role in X-MEN 2099 and just couldn't cut it as a twisted hero type. He and the symbiote would never agree. Then, he says to take the symbiote out of virtual reality. Who's to say that there are symbiotes like Venom hanging around there? Another problem is that the symbiote shouldn't be just anyone. It should be the one that Peter Parker brought back from the alien world. The one who might seek out the new Spider-Man, with a reason.

I've enjoyed your book for all thirty issues.

Patrick Brennan
Cameron Park, CA

Patrick, as you now know, our Venom was a bit different from all three suggestions and the symbiote itself, that we have yet to learn completely about. As for Halloween Jack, John would dig doing a mini-series with him. Anybody wanna second the motion?

Dear Spider-Men,

This title's the best available in the 2099 A.D. Universe. I own every issue including the first annual and I plan to get every one that comes out within this comic's life.

1. Young Miguel O'Hara. Unlike many who have written in the past year, I'd like to see the story continue in its current form. The short stories help readers better understand the character you present every four weeks. However, I feel this story line should in no way lessen the main Spidey story length.

2. Venom 2099. Many people have requested the birth of Venom for the late twenty-first century. I disagree. Venom's an over-used character created for the story surrounding the current day Spidey. Venom would serve no purpose in the future and would be lessened from a dynamic supporting cast member to a symbiote out of time. I do feel that Spidey needs a type of "evil twin" in the proverbial sence. I suggest Flipside. He contains all the requirements of a "Venom". He is eerily like the web-head, he holds lower moral values, he wants to kill Spidey (a definite must), and he has a regenerative factor that all good villains possess.

3. Xina. There has been some debate over the Xina/Dana situation. I cast my support for Xina. She's a more interesting back-up character and can blossom into a complex supporting cast member. Miguel should "dump" Dana anyway. She's just shallow. All we ever see is, "Help me Miguel." Xina's a better character. She looks better, too.

4. New page quality/higher price. While many would see this as a "conspiracy to separate the consumer from his/her money", I back you up on this. The better pages improve picture quality. It's more cosmetically appealing to the reader. I've wanted this to occur to this title for years now. As for the higher price, we must all make some sacrifices in this world. One must always pay for quality.

5. Doom taking over America. I can't say if this is a good thing. It'll closer unify the comics, creating the universe that readers take for granted in the modern books. Also, this may lead to the inevitable Spidey/Doom confrontation we've all been anticipating.

In conclusion, I'd like to affirm the praise many have given you on this book. It is terrific!

James Fischer
Cincinnati, OH

James, your letter was really thoughtful and we appreciate your opinions and praise. Hope you enjoyed the confrontation between Doom and Spidey and all that took place in those issues as well as how Peter handled Venom. As you'll see, the Xina/Dana question will be settled with a bang.

Join the Brotherhood
Join the fight for a better tomorrow
Do your duty for DOOM and your country at the following locations.
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